Amendment to the Specification:

Paragraph [0067] of the application as filed has been amended as follows:

[0067] IL-17 has been implicated in various inflammatory diseases, including rheumatoid arhtritis (RA). One of the cardinal features of RA is erosion of periarticular bone. Osteoclasts play a key role in bone resorption but the mechanisms by which osteoclasts are formed from progenitor cells is not fully understood. Recently, Kotake, et al. (J. Clin. Invest. 103:1345 (1999)) reported that Interleukin 17 (IL-17) could induce the formation of osteoclast-like cells in cocultures of mouse hemopoietic cells and primary osteoblasts. This IL-17 induced osteoclastogenesis was shown to be inhibited by indomethacin, a selective inhibitor of cyclooxygenas-2 (COX-2). To examine the role of IL-17 in the pathogenesis of RA, IL-17 in synovial fluids obtained from patients with RA, osteoarthritis (OA), trauma, or gout was measured. The synovial fluids from RA patients were found to contain significantly higher levels of IL-17 as compared to osteoarthritis (OA) patients. In addition, using immunostaining, IL-17-positive mononuclear cells were detected in the synovial tissues of RA patients and not in tissue from OA patients. These findings have been interpreted to indicate that IL-17 may contribute to bone erosion and joint damage in RA and may therefore, be a target for inhibition.

Paragraph [0070] of the application as filed has been amended as follows:

[0070] Elevated levels of IL-17 have been reported for patients with systhemic lupus erythrematosus (SLE). Wong et al., Lupus 9(8):589-93 (2000). Plasma IL-17 concentrations of SLE patients and control subjects were measured by enzyme-linked immunosorbent assay (ELISA) using reagent kits of R & D Systems Inc (MN, USA).

Paragraph [0072] of the application as filed has been amended as follows:

[0072] It has been reported that IL-17 mRNA is augmented in blood and CSF mononuclear cells in ~~multipe~~ multiple sclerosis (MS). In situ hybridization with synthetic oligonucleotide probes was adopted to detect and enumerate IL-17 mRNA expressing mononuclear cells (MNC) in blood and cerebrospinal fluid (CSF) from patients with MS and control individuals. Numbers of IL-17 mRNA expressing blood MNC were higher in patients with MS and acute aseptic meningoencephalitis (AM) compared to healthy individuals. Higher numbers of IL-17 mRNA expressing blood MNC were detected in MS patients examined during clinical exacerbation compared to remission. Matusevicius et al., Mult. Scler. 5(2): 101-4 (1999).